

In the claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for modulating ~~cell proliferation~~ activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising contacting a cell with ~~an~~ a polypeptide agent that modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, such that ~~cell proliferation~~ activation of an NFkB signaling pathway is modulated.

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Claim 3 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell, ~~and a prostate cell~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a mature TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent consists essentially of a TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.

Claims 9-38 (cancelled)

Claim 39 (newly added): The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge $-C_{H2}-C_{H3}$ regions of a human immunoglobulin.

Claim 40 (newly added): The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of $\gamma 1$, $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, ϵ and α .

Claim 41 (newly added): The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α and Fc sequences.

Claim 42 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising a sequence at least 80% identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising a sequence at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 44 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 45 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 46 (newly added) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

Claim 47 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell

Claim 48 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

Claim 49 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide comprising a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 50 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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Claim 51 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 52 (newly added): The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NF κ B activity.

Claim 53 (newly added): A method for modulating NF κ B activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a polypeptide agent comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide agent inhibits the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, such that NF κ B activity in said cell is modulated.

Claim 54 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

Claim 55 (newly added) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

Claim 56 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell

Claim 57 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

Claim 58 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a mature TRADE polypeptide extracellular domain.

Ab Claim 59 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

Claim 60 (newly added): The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge $-C_H2-C_H3$ regions of a human immunoglobulin.

Claim 61 (newly added): The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of $\gamma 1$, $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, ϵ and α .

Claim 62 (newly added): The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

Claim 63 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 64 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 65 (newly added): The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

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